

THE PRINCIPAL
A C T S
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
C H U R C H
O F
SCOTLAND,

Conveened at EDINBURGH, the 21. Day of May 1767.

Collected and extracted from the Records by the Clerk thereof.



EDINBURGH,

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THE PRINCIPAL
ACTS
OF THE
General Assembly
OF THE
CHURCH
OF
SCOTLAND,

Begun at *Edinburgh*, the 21st Day of *May* 1767, and concluded the 2d Day of *June* said Year.

I.

The King's Commission to *John* Earl of *Glasgow* produced, and ordered to be recorded.

Edinburgh, May 21st, 1767.

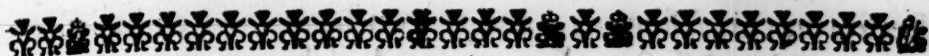


H E General Assembly of this National Church being convened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable JOHN Earl of GLASGOW, the King's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, making and constituting him his Majesty's High Commissioner and Representative of this Assembly ; which Commission

sion was publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, and ordered to be recorded in the Books of Assembly. The Tenor whereof follows :

“ **G**EOGIUS, Dei Gratia, *Magnæ Britannię, Francię,*
 “ *et Hibernię* Rex, fidei defensor, omnibus probis
 “ hominibus, ad quos præsentēs literæ Nostræ pervenerint,
 “ salutem. Quandoquidem Nos considerantes, quod genera-
 “ lis ecclesiæ Scotiæ conventus in vigesimum primum diem
 “ *Maii* instantis convenire ordinatus fuit, Nosque etiam a-
 “ bunde cupidi, quineriam necessarium esse judicantes in
 “ commodum dictæ ecclesiæ, ut idem generalis ecclesiæ con-
 “ ventus, die statuto debite observetur, atque, rebus magni
 “ momenti Nos alio vocantibus, dicto conventui personaliter
 “ interesse nequimus ; Nosque abunde satisfacti de fidelitate
 “ et sufficientia fidelissimi et dilectissimi Nostri consanguini
 “ *Joannis comitis de Glasgou*, quod ad summum munus
 “ postea mentionatum rite exercendum et obeundum usque-
 “ quaque sit qualificatus ; Noveritis igitur Nos nominasse,
 “ constituisse, et ordinasse, sicuti Nos, tenore præsentium,
 “ nominavimus, constituimus, et ordinamus memoratum
 “ *Joannem* comitem de *Glasgou*, supremum Nostrum com-
 “ missionarium ad effectum postea mentionat. Dando et con-
 “ cedendo illi plenissimam Nostram potestatem, commissio-
 “ nem, et warrantum, sacram Nostram personam et autho-
 “ ritatem regalem repræsentandi, necnon præsentiam No-
 “ stram supplendi, et locum Nostrum in dicto subsequenti
 “ generali conventu, tanquam commissionario Nostro, ad
 “ hunc effectum specialiter constituto, tenendi, omniaque a-
 “ lia ad imperium et locum commissionarii, pro generali ec-
 “ clesiæ conventu peragendi, tam plene, adeoque libere, in
 “ omnibus respectibus, quam quilibet alius ejusdem summi
 “ muneris fecerat, seu quovis tempore præterito facere po-
 “ tuerat, vel ac si Nos ipsi personaliter præsentēs facere po-
 “ tuerimus. Quæque omnia et singula ab antedicto *Joan-*
 “ *ne* comite de *Glasgou*, in hac Nostra commissione profe-
 “ quenda, legitime fecerit, seu fieri ordinaverit, Nos firmiter
 “ approbamus, et habituri sumus. Omnibus et singulis in-
 “ super antedictæ ecclesiæ et conventus pastoribus, et presby-
 “ teris, cæterisque quibuscunque, infra illam partem *Magnæ*
 “ *Britanniæ, Scotiam* vocat. subditis Nostris quibuscunque,
 “ cujuscunque gradus, seu qualitatē, ut dictum *Joannem* co-
 “ mitem de *Glasgou*, tanquam Nostrum supremum commis-
 “ sionarium, quoad effectum et modum supra mentionatum,
 “ reveantur, agnoscant, et dicto ipsius audientes se præbe-
 “ ant, stricte mandamus et imperamus ; atque hanc No-
 “ stram commissionem, a dicto vigesimo primo die *Maii* in-
 “ cipere,

“ ciperet, et deinceps hac subsequenti sessione dicti generalis
 “ conventus, in vigore continuare declaramus, vel usque dum
 “ a nobis revocabitur, et exonerabitur. In cujus rei testi-
 “ monium, sigillum Nostrum per Unionis tractatum custo-
 “ diend. et in *Scotia*, vice et loco magni sigilli ejusdem u-
 “ tend. ordinat. præsentibus appendi mandavimus; apud
 “ aulam Nostram apud *St. James's*, vigesimo tertio die
 “ mensis *Aprilis*, anno Domini millesimo septingentesimo
 “ sexagesimo septimo, regnique Nostri anno septimo. Per
 “ signaturam manus S. D. N. regis superscript.”



II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the
 General Assembly, presented to them
 by his Majesty's Commissioner.

Edinburgh, 21st May 1767.

Suprascribitur, GEORGE R.



I G H T Reverend and Well beloved,
 We greet you well. The Knowledge We
 have of your Loyalty and Affection for
 Our Person and Government, and the
 many Proofs We have, from time to
 time, received of your constant and zea-
 lous Endeavours for the Advancement
 and Encouragement of Virtue and Piety, afford us the most
 pleasing Hopes of the Continuance of so laudable a Conduct :
 And it is with the greatest Satisfaction, that We take this
 Opportunity of repeating to you those Assurances of Our
 Royal Support and Authority, which you have so truly and
 deservedly merited, by your steady Adherence to the Discou-
 ragement of Vice and Immorality, and to the Advancement
 of true Religion, so essential to the Welfare and Prosperity
 of Our People.

Convinced, as We are, of your Prudence and firm Reso-
 lution to concur in whatever may promote the Happiness of
 Our Subjects, it is unnecessary for Us to recommend to you
 to avoid Contentions and unedifying Debates, as well as to
 avoid every Thing that may tend to disturb that Harmony
 and Tranquillity, which is so essential in Councils solely cal-
 culated for the Suppression of every Species of Licentious-
 ness, Irreligion, and Vice : And, as We have the firmest Re-

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liance on your Zeal in the Support of the Christian Faith, as well as in the Wisdom and Prudence of your Councils, We are thoroughly assured, that they will be directed to such Purposes, as may best tend to inforce a conscientious Observance of all those Duties, which the true Religion and Laws of these Kingdoms require, and on which the Felicity of every Individual so essentially depends.

We have already had so many Proofs of the Fidelity, Zeal and Attachment of Our Right Trusty, and Right Well-beloved Cousin JOHN FAIR of GLASGOW, that We have again made Choice of Him to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly; and as you have so often had Experience of his Affection for you, and of his constant Attention to the true Interests of this Country, We are persuaded that this Nomination will be considered by you, as a fresh Mark of Our Favour. You may be assured, that the Presbyterian Church of Scotland, as by Law established, will always meet with Our Support, in the full Enjoyment of their Rights and Privileges: And We are convinced, that the same wise Conduct, which has so often manifested itself in your former Meetings, will be exerted on the present Occasion, and that Cordiality, Unanimity, and Brotherly Love, will attend all your Proceedings, and be the Means of securing a happy and satisfactory Conclusion of this present Meeting of the General Assembly: And so We bid you heartily Farewell.

(Given at Our Court at *St. James's* the 23d Day of *April* 1767, in the seventh Year of Our Reign.

By his Majesty's Command,

H. S. CONWAY.



III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

May it please your Majesty,



WE received Your Majesty's most gracious Letter with that profound Respect and Gratitude, which we owe to such a distinguished Proof of Your Royal Favour.

Your

Your Majesty's Approbation of the Conduct of this Church affords us the highest Satisfaction, and it shall be our Care, as it is our Duty, to use such zealous Endeavours for the Advancement of Virtue and Piety, as may merit the Continuance of that high Honour.

Conscious of the Importance of the Trust committed to us, we labour to diffuse among our People the Principles of true Religion and Loyalty ; and we rejoice, that we have a King to sway the Scepter over us, who not only protects us in the Discharge of our Duty, but excites us by his Royal Command to the Practice of it.

We rely, with perfect Confidence, in the Assurance your Majesty is pleased to give us of your Resolution to support this Church in the full Enjoyment of all her Rights and Privileges. Under this auspicious Protection, we enjoy such Security, that we should be left without Excuse, if we did not exert ourselves with Vigour in performing every Duty, incumbent upon us as Loyal Subjects to your Majesty, and faithful Servants of Our LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We accept with Gratitude your Majesty's Royal Donation for promoting Christian Knowledge in the Highlands and Islands, and we shall be careful to apply it in such a Manner, as may contribute most effectually to accomplish your Majesty's pious and charitable Intention.

The known Attachment of the Earl of *Glasgow* to your Majesty's Person and Government ; our Experience of his Abilities for the Discharge of so high a Trust ; his exemplary Regard for Religion ; his cordial Affection for this Church ; renders your Majesty's Choice of him to represent your Royal Person in this Assembly, most acceptable to us, and we consider it as a fresh Mark of your Royal Favour towards us.

That ALMIGHTY GOD may establish your Throne in Righteousness, and in the Hearts of your Subjects ; That he may long preserve your Majesty, the Guardian of true Religion and Liberty, and a Pattern of Piety and Virtue to your People ; That he may pour down his Heavenly Blessings on your Royal Consort, our most gracious Queen ; That the divine Favour may ever attend his Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and all your Royal Family ; That your Descendants may, to latest Ages, reign over a Free and Loyal People ; And that, after a very long and happy Life on Earth, you may enjoy the glorious Crown of Immortality, through

through J E S U S C H R I S T Our L O R D:
These are, and ever shall be, the earnest Prayers of,

May it please your Majesty,

Your Majesty's most faithful,

Most obedient, and most loyal Subjects,

The Ministers and Elders met in this National Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

*Signed in our Name, in our Presence,
and at our Appointment, by*

Edin. 23d May
1767.

JAMES MURISON, Moderator,



IV.

Recommendation anent the Orphan Children of *Soldiers*.

PROPOSALS for more effectually executing a Scheme for Maintaining and Educating the Infants and Orphans of Soldiers.



HAT every Infant born in any of His Majesty's Regiments of Foot or Dragoons in *Great Britain*, be provided with proper Cloathing, and its Mother with necessary Sustenance, to the Amount of one Shilling per Week.

That a Request be made to the Right Honourable the Secretary at War, to issue his Orders to the respective Commanding Officers, to take upon them the Care of the above Article.

That when a Regiment shall be quartered together, the Surgeon and Quarter-Master, under the Direction of the Commanding Officer, be appointed to buy and provide Necessaries within the said Sum of 1^l. per Week.

That when the Regiment shall be divided, the Commanding Officer in each Quarter, be ordered to undertake this Charge.

Th²

That in Case of a March before the Lying-in Women are in a Condition to accompany their Husbands, without Danger of their own or Infants Lives, Application be made to some Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, or to the Minister of the Parish, to undertake this charitable Office, and a Sum not exceeding 1s. per Week be allowed for Lodging, exclusive of the Allowance for Support.

That a Furlough be allowed to the Husband of the Lying-in Woman, thus left behind, for a Month or six Weeks, according to the Discretion of the Commanding Officer.

That when a Child becomes an Orphan, it be boarded in some Village near the Place where the Parents died, till it arrives to the Age of five Years; at which Time to be put, if possible, to the Parish School for two Years, and then boarded at some reputable Farmer's for three Years more, or put to some Trade or Manufacture.

That tho' it is hoped and believed, that the Clergy in general will chearfully engage in this charitable Work, yet, as a further Inducement, that My Lords the Bishops be humbly requested to recommend it by their Influence, and enforce it by their Example; the Minister of the Parish, where the Parents died, will then think it his Duty to appoint a proper Person to take Care of the Orphan, and to make a monthly Report to the Register whether it be living or dead.

As a great many Objects of this Charity will reside in *Scotland*, that Application be made to the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, to recommend the Inspection of the Orphan Children to the Care of the respective Ministers, within whose Parishes they shall be boarded.

To ascertain the Persons who are intitled to the Benefit of this Charity, and to prevent, as much as possible, all Abuses of it, the Commanding Officer at Quarters shall send up a Certificate with the first monthly Return, specifying that A. B. is Wife of C. D. Corporal, Drummer, or private Man, in such a Regiment and Company, and has been so at least nine Months before her Delivery.

That if a Serjeant die during his Wife's Pregnancy, the Widow and Orphan be intitled to this Charity.

That a monthly Return be made to the Register by the Commanding Officer of each Corps, specifying the State of the Children, and the Time when any of them die, the Subsistence then to cease, except the Woman be in her first Month; but in that Case, to continue the four first Weeks after Delivery.

That the Children continue under the Care of their Parents, who will be enabled by this Charity to maintain them, and, encouraged by the Continuance of it, to suffer them at

the Age of five Years to be put to School, and afterwards boarded with some reputable Farmer, or put to some Trade or Manufacture, as proposed for the Orphans ; and thus a vigorous, and hardy Race may be formed for Agriculture, and the Service of their Country. If they refuse to comply with this kind and charitable Proposal, then all Subsistence immediately to cease for ever.

That the Proceedings of this Charity be annually printed, for the Information of the Subscribers, and the Public in general.

Every Subscriber paying five Guineas annually, shall be intitled to be a Governor of this Charity.

This Proposal has been approved by their ROYAL HIGHNESSES the DUKES of YORK, GLOUCESTER, and CUMBERLAND, by the Arch-Bishops of CANTERBURY and YORK, by several of the first General Officers of the Army, by the Pay-Master of the Forces, Secretary at War, Adjutant-General, &c.

His MAJESTY has been most graciously pleased to declare himself PATRON of this Charity.

The Secretary at War has been pleased to order the Commanding Officers of the several Corps, to report the State of the Infants and Orphans to his Office, where an exact Register will be kept of the Proceedings of this Charity.

Subscriptions to be received at Messrs. Backwell and Co. Pall Mall ; Drummond and Co. Charing Cross ; Colebroke and Co. Threadneedle Street ; Martin and Co. Lombard Street ; and Messrs Forrest and Maxwell, Merchants at Edinburgh.



V.

Act supplying certain Defects in the Forms of Commissions and Attestations thereof.

At Edinburgh, the 20th Day of May, 1767.

THE General Assembly considering that some Defects have been observed in the Forms of Commissions to Members of Assembly, and Attestations thereof, prescribed by the last General Assembly, do hereby appoint the following Additions to be made to these Forms ; and do enact and ordain, That all such Commissions and Attestations as are not conceived and attested in the
very

very Words of the Forms prescribed by last Assembly, and of the Supplement now made to them, shall be rejected.

1mo, That to the Form of Commissions from Presbyteries, be added,

“ Extracted by

“ Cls.

2do, That in the Case of an After-election of a Commissioner in the Place of one formerly chosen, the Form shall be thus,

At the Day of Years.
 “ THE which Day the Presbytery of (or
 “ the Principal, Professors, Masters, and other Members
 “ of the University of) or (the Ma-
 “ gistrates and Town-Council of) being con-
 “ vened betwixt the hours of One and Eight in the Even-
 “ ing ; and” (here the Occasion of the new Election to be
 narrated, and then the Form to go on thus,)

FOR PRESBYTERIES.

“ Did and hereby do nominate and appoint
 “ in his Place, Mr Minister at
 or (if an Elder) Ruling
 “ Elder, their Commissioner to the next General Assem-
 “ bly ; and do hereby testify and declare (if a Minister)
 “ that he hath signed the *formula*, enjoined by the 10th
 “ Act of Assembly 1711 ; or (if an Elder) that he is in
 “ all respects qualified in the same Manner as their former
 “ Commissioner, in whose Room he is chosen ; which the
 “ Presbytery does hereby attest upon proper Information.”

FOR UNIVERSITIES.

“ Did and hereby do nominate and appoint in
 “ his Place their
 “ Commissioner to the next General Assembly ; and it is
 “ hereby testified and declared that he is in all Respects qua-
 “ lified in the same Manner as their former Commissioner in
 “ whose Room he is chosen ; which the University attests
 “ on proper Information.

N. B. This Form of Attestation is prescribed for Universities, on the Supposition that the former Commissioner and the Person chosen in his Place, are either both of them Ministers, or both of them Elders ; But if an Elder is chosen in the Place of a Minister, or a Minister in the Place of an Elder, then the Attestation must go on according to the Form prescribed for the first Election.

FOR BURGHS.

“ Did and hereby do nominate and appoint in his
 “ Place their Com-
 “ missioner

“ missioner to the next General Assembly ; and it is hereby
 “ testified and declared that the said
 “ is (a Residenter in the said Burgh) or (an Heretor
 “ in the said Burgh) or (an Heretor in the Bounds of the
 “ Presbytery of within which the said
 “ Burgh lies) or (has formerly resided and officiated as an
 “ Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery of
 “ within which the said
 “ Burgh doth lie) and that he is in all other Respects quali-
 “ fied in the same Manner as their former Commissioner,
 “ in whose Room he is chosen ; which the Magistrates and
 “ Town Council do attest on proper Information.”

3¹¹⁰, That the Attestation of a Commission from a Burgh
 by the Kirk-Session, shall, besides what is in the Form last
 prescribed, contain the following Clause,

“ And likewise that he is (a Residenter in the said Burgh)
 “ or (an Heretor in the said Burgh) or (an Elder in the
 “ bounds of the Presbytery of within
 “ which the said Burgh lies or (has formerly resided and
 “ officiated as an Elder in the said Burgh) or (Presbytery
 “ of within which the said Burgh doth lie.”)

The General Assembly appoints the Agent for the Church
 to cause print this Act, containing the above Supplement to
 the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, and transmit
 the same to the several Presbyteries, Universities, and Burghs.



VI.

Commission to some Ministers and Ru-
 ling Elders for Reformation of the
Highlands and Islands, and for mana-
 ging His Majesty's Royal Bounty for
 that End.

THE General Assembly do hereby nominate and ap-
 point Mr James Munton Principal of the New Col-
 lege of St Andrews, their Moderator, all the Ministers
 Members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, Principal Camp-
 bell *Aberdeen*, Professor Andrew Schaw *St Andrews*, Mr
 James Gillespie at *St Andrews*, Mr James Thomson at *Dun-*
fermline, Mr Andrew Gallie at *Laggan*, Mr Donald M^c
 Queen at *Kilmuir*, Mr John M^cAulay at *Barr*, Mr Hugh
 Rose at *Creich*, Mr James Nicolson at *Halkirk*, Mr George
 Ellis at *Carridden*, Mr John Bradfute at *Dunsyre*, Dr. Joseph
 M^cCormick

M'Cormick at *Temple*, Mr John Hamilton at *Bolton*, Mr Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Mr Andrew Chatto at *Morbattle*, Mr Alexander Glen at *Galashiels*, Dr John Walker at *Moffat*, Mr William Dalrymple at *Air*, Mr Gilbert Lang at *Largs*, Mr John Hamilton Senior at *Glasgow*, Mr John Colquhoun at *Ballernock*, Mr Archibald M'Lea at *Rothsay*, Mr Joseph M'Intyre at *Glenorchy*, Mr Adam Ferguson at *Moulin*, Mr Patrick Simson at *Clunie*, Mr David Thomson at *Airly*, Mr Patrick Duff at *Old Machar*, Mr Murdoch M'Lennan at *Craibie*, Mr James Dunbar at *Boyndie*, Mr John Grant at *Abernetby*, Mr David Marshal at *Kirkcaldy*, Dr John Ker at *Forfar*, Mr George Barclay at *Haddington*, Mr David Campbell at *Southend*, Mr Duncan M Farlane at *Drymen*, Mr Alexander Hosack at *Colonsay*, &c. Ministers; Mr Colquhoun Grant Writer to the Signet, Mr John Pringle Advocate, Mr Alexander Tait One of the principal Clerks of Session, Mr Archibald Cockburn Advocate, Mr Sinclair of *Ulster*, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Thomas Hogg Esq; Younger of *Newliston*, James Montgomery Esq; Lord Advocate, George-Buchan Hepburn Esq; Henry Dundas Esq; His Majesty's Solicitor, Mr Alexander Orr Writer Mr Andrew Crossbie Advocate, Bailie John Walker, Dr Robert Findlay, Mr John Chalmer Writer to the Signet, Mr Robert Sinclair Advocate, Dr Thomas Reid, Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Bailie Sands Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Professor Matthew Stewart, Lord Stonefield, Allan M'Dougal Esq; Younger of *Gallanach*, Mr John Swinton, Junior, Advocate, John M'Naughton Esq; Mr John Robertson Writer, Mr Cosmo Gordon Advocate, Dr Gregory Grant, Mr Isaac Grant Writer to the Signet, Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Mr James Colquhoun Advocate, Mr William Galloway Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Provost Stewart there, Mr John Milne pretent Conveener, Patrick Crawford Esq; Mr James Anderson Advocate, and Provost William Buchanan Ruling Elders, to be a Committee of this Assembly, for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands* of *Scotland*, for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, suppressing Popery and Profaneness, and for managing the Royal Bounty given for these Ends, according to, and in Terms of His Majesty's Grant to this Assembly. In Prosecution of which Purposes, the Committee are to appoint Preachers and Catechists to go to such Places as they shall find, upon due Information, to be most proper, according to His Majesty's Design expressed in his Warrant; and, in so doing, that they have particular Regard to such Parishes in *South-Uist*, *Small-Isles*, *Glenco*, *Harris*, the Countries of *Moidart*, *Glengairie*, and *Lochaber*, and the other Parishes of the

Synods of *Glenelg* and *Argyle*, which the Committee shall find, by Reason of their vast Extent, the Prevalency of Popery and Ignorance, and other unhappy Circumstances, to be in the greatest Distress: And they shall take Care, that the Persons they employ be certified, and found, upon due Trial, to be properly qualified for these respective Offices, of good Abilities for the same, of a pious Life and Conversation, prudent, of undoubted Loyalty to His Majesty, and of competent Skill in the Principles of Divinity, and particularly in Popish Controversies: Such Preachers and Catechists being hereby appointed to be subject to, and under the Inspection of, the Presbyteries of the Bounds to which they are sent, who are to take Care that the Orders of the Committee be duly observed by them: And the Preachers are also appointed to catechise; and both they and the Catechists to instruct the People from House to House, and to visit the Sick: And, in all their Labours among the People, to be careful to teach them the Principles and Duties of the true Christian Protestant Religion, and the Obligations they are under to Duty and Loyalty to our Sovereign King *George*, and Obedience to the Laws: And the Committee are empowered to give them such Instructions, as to their Work and Behaviour, as they shall judge meet; which Instructions the Preachers and Catechists are hereby ordered to obey. The General Assembly do further appoint the said Committee to have a particular Regard in their Proceedings to the Regulations agreed upon by the Committee of the Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty, on the 30th day of *September* 1730, approved by subsequent Assemblies; and to take Care that Presbyteries, and others concerned, observe the same, which they are hereby ordered to do: Particularly the Assembly ordains the several Presbyteries to insert in their Registers, the Committee's Appointments of the Designations, Salaries, and Stations of the several Missionaries, and to have an exact Regard thereto, in all the Letters they shall write about the said Missionaries, and in giving of Certificates to them; and to direct all their Letters concerning Missionaries in their Bounds, only to the Moderator of the Committee; which Letters shall be signed, at the Appointment of the Presbytery, by the Moderator or Clerk thereof: And the Assembly does discharge any Payments to be made of the Salaries of the Missionaries, except upon Receipts from the Missionaries themselves, and upon Certificates from the Presbyteries, bearing that they have served for the Times mentioned in the Receipts. The General Assembly do also empower the said Committee to apply, for the Purposes above-mentioned, what may remain of the
last

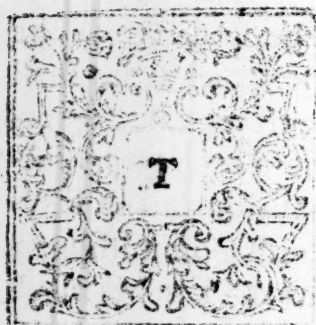
last Year's Royal Bounty not disposed of, by Reason of any of the Missionaries not fulfilling the Appointments laid upon them: And they are to keep a Register of their Proceedings, and likewise distinct Books of Accounts, how the foresaid Money is bestowed, which shall be patent to any concerned, who please to inspect the same. Of the Persons above named as Members of this Committee, five are declared to be a *Quorum*, whereof three are to be Ministers. But it is hereby appointed, that at the Quarterly Meeting of the Committee, in which the Scheme or Establishment of Missionaries for the ensuing Year is to be approved and determined, not less than fourteen shall be the *Quorum*, whereof nine shall be Ministers; and the said Committee are appointed to have their Meetings at *Edinburgh*, in the Hall of the Society in *Scotland* for propagating Christian Knowledge, the last *Thursday* of every Month, at four of the Clock Afternoon, and also the first lawful Day after the Adjournment of the four stated Diets of the Commission of the General Assembly, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, except that Day shall fall to be *Saturday*, and then the Meeting shall be upon *Monday* next thereafter, at the said Hour; with Power to the said Committee to adjourn themselves to such Times and Places, as they shall find most needful and convenient: And they are to keep a Correspondence with the Commission of the General Assembly, and the Society for propagating Christian Knowledge, and their Committee of Directors, and to take their Advice and Assistance; and also to correspond with the Synods and Presbyteries concerned. They are likewise instructed and empowered, as they shall see Cause, to apply to the Government, or any Magistrate, for Assistance and Support in carrying on the Design of the Commission now given to them. And the General Assembly do by these Presents nominate and appoint Mr *David Dalrymple* Advocate, Procurator for the Church, to be Receiver of the foresaid Royal Bounty, and to pay out the same as he shall be directed and ordered by the said Committee, and according to their Rules. And the said Committee are appointed to examine the Accounts of the Distribution of the Royal Bounty, and lay the same before the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, or the Barons of His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, and to report their Diligence to the General Assembly, to whom they are to be accountable. And it is agreed, that no Person once employed and insert in the Scheme, shall be struck out thereof for that Year, but by the *Quorum* of at least Fourteen, whereof nine to be Ministers; and in Case any Complaint shall be made against any of them on the Scheme, it shall not be determined the first

first ordinary Meeting that the same is offered, but it shall ly on the Table till another Meeting; and, in the mean Time, the Person complained of, and the Presbytery of the Bounds wherein he officiates, shall be acquainted of such Complaint, and these concerned be required to send to the said Committee a just Account of the Matter, against the next Meeting. And it is further appointed, that after the yearly Scheme of Missionaries on the Royal Bounty is settled in Manner above directed, and Notice thereof given by Letters to the Presbyteries concerned, such Presbyteries shall send up to the said Committee their Answers to these Letters, at farthest with their Commissioners to the General Assembly, if the same be not done sooner; and that the Committee, at their first Meeting after the General Assembly, shall endeavour to compleat the next Year's Scheme themselves; and if they cannot compleat it, they shall name a Sub-committee of their Number for that Purpose, who are to lay their Draught thereof before a subsequent Meeting, which are appointed to meet as soon after the Rising of the Assembly as possible: And that the said Committee, in making up the Scheme of Missionaries, &c. do not exceed the Sum in the Grant.



VII.

Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.



THE General Assembly considering, that there are divers Affairs which they cannot overtake, do hereby nominate, commissionate, and appoint the Reverend Mr James Murison Principal of the New College of *St Andrews* their Moderator: And from the Presbytery of *Abertarph*, Mr William Grant at *Kilmanivaig*, Mr Andrew Gallie at *Laggan*, Ministers; and Mr Colquhoun Grant Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Skye*, Mr Donald M^cQueen at *Kilmuir*, Mr Malcolm M^cCaskil at *Small Isles*, Ministers, and Mr John Pringle Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery

bytery of *Lewis*, Mr John Clark at *Stornoway*, Mr Alexander M'Kay at *Lochs*, Ministers; and Alexander Tait one of the Principal Clerks of Session, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Uist*, Mr John M'Aulay at *Barra*, Minister, and Mr Archibald Cockburn Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dornock*, Mr John Sutherland at *Dornock*, Mr Hugh Role at *Greich*, Ministers; and the Honourable George M'Kay of *Skibo*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Tong*, Mr George Munro at *Farr*, Mr John Thomson at *Durness*, Ministers; and Mr John Mosman Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Caithness*, Mr James Nicolson at *Halkirk*, Mr Alexander Smith at *Olrick*, Ministers; and George Sinclair of *Ullister*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, Mr John Scollay at *St Andrews* and *Dearness*, Mr Hugh Sutherland at *Kirkwall* and *St Ollay*, Ministers; and Mr Patrick Miller Merchant in *Leith*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Kirkwall*, Mr John M'Laurin Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Cairston*, Mr James Tyrie at *Stromness*, Mr Robert Smith at *Firth*, Ministers; Mr John Haddoway Merchant in *Leith*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, Dr Daniel M'Queen, Mr Henry Lundie, Mr Robert Walker, Mr Thomas Scot at *Leith*, Dr John Erskine, Mr Thomas White at *Libberton*, Ministers; the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lauderdale*, Bailie Robert Forrester, and Bailie James Gentle, Ruling Elders: From the City of *Edinburgh*, the Right Honourable the Lord Provost of *Edinburgh*, and Mr John Miln present Conveener: From the University of *Edinburgh*, Dr William Robertson Principal of the University there: From the Church of *Campvere*, the Honourable John Home Esq; Lord Conservator: From the Presbytery of *Linlithgow*, Mr Andrew Gloag at *West-Caldor*, Mr George Ellis at *Carriiden*, Mr Archibald M'Aulay at *Queensferry*, Mr James Paton at *Torphichen*, Ministers; Lord Napier, and the Honourable Charles Hope-Weir of *Craigiehall*, Ruling Elders: From the Burgh of *Linlithgow*, Thomas Hogg Esq; of *Newliston*: From the Burgh of *Queensferry*, Mr Walter Scot Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Biggar*, Mr John Bradfutt at *Dunsyre*, Mr Thomas M'Courty at *Dolphingston*, Mr James Reid at *Lamington*, Ministers; and Archibald Bertram of *Nisbet*, Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Peebles*, Mr Alexander Johniton at *Lyn*, Mr Alexander Adam at *Traquair*, Ministers; and James Montgomery Esq; Lord Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Dalkeith*, Mr William Mackie at *Primrose*, Dr Joseph M'Cormick at *Temple*, Mr Alexander Colvil at *Ormiston*, Ministers; and the Right Honourable the Lord

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President,

President, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Haddington*, Mr John Hamilton at *Bolton*, Mr Francis Cowan at *Gladsmuir*, Mr George Barclay at *Haddington*, Ministers; and William Law of *Elvingston* Esq; Ruling Elder; From the Burgh of *Haddington*, John Buchan of *Lethem* Esq; From the Burgh of *North Berwick*, Mr John Swinton *tertius*, Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Dunbar*, Mr George Brace at *Dunbar*, Mr Alexander Davidson at *Stenton*, Ministers; and Sir George Suttie, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dunbar*, George Buchan Hepburn Esq; From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr Matthew Sandilands Dysert at *Eccles*, Mr Adam Dickson at *Dunfermline*, Ministers; and David Gavin of *Langton* Esq; Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Chirnside*, Mr Walter Anderson at *Chirnside*, Mr Philip Redpath at *Hutton*, Ministers; and Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Kelso*, Mr Robert Hogg at *Roxburgh*, Mr Andrew Chatto at *Morbottle*, Ministers, and Mr Henry Dundas his Majesty's Solicitor, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Jedburgh*, Mr John Ricalton at *Hobkirk*, Mr Robert Deans at *Crailing*, Mr Robert Muirhead at *Southdeans*, Ministers; and Mr Thomas Turnbull of *Cadgiehall*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Earlstoun*, Mr James Ford at *Lauder*, Mr David Scot at *Channelkirk*, Ministers; and Mr George Rutherford of *Ferntoun*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Selkirk*, Mr Simon Haliburton at *Askirk*, Mr Alexander Glen at *Galsburghs*, Ministers; and Lord Alemoor, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Annan*, Mr James Currie at *Middlebie*, Mr Thomas Smith at *Cummertrees*, Ministers; and Mr Alexander Orr Writer to the Signet, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Langholm*, Mr Richard Scot at *Ewes*, Mr John Scotland at *Eskdalemoor*, Ministers; and Mr John Craigie Chamberlain to his Grace the Duke of *Buccleugh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, Mr Edward M'Whinny at *Applegirth*, Dr John Walker at *Moffat*, Mr James Moodie at *Moufwald*, Ministers; and Mr Theodore Edgar of *Elchiesteels*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Lochmaben*, John Mountey of *Rammerskails* Esq; From the Presbytery of *Penpont*, Mr Alexander Bain at *Kier*, Mr William Cunninghame at *Sanquhar*, Ministers; and Mr John M'Gub, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Sanquhar*, Mr Robert Whigham Merchant there: From the Presbytery of *Dumfries*, Mr Robert M'Morin at *Kirkpatrick Durham*, Mr James Finnan at *Colvendale*, Mr Archibald Lawson at *Kirkmahoe*, Ministers; and Mr Andrew Crosbie Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Dumfries*, Provost John Dickson: From the Presbytery of *Kircudbright*, Mr William Donaldson

Donaldson at *Parton*, Mr William Crombie at *Kirkcudbright*, Mr David Blenshall at *Ballmaghie*, Ministers ; and Mr James Muirhead Preacher of the Gospel at *Laggan*, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Kirkcudbright*, Mr Charles Cunninghame Baxter in *Edinburgh* : From the Presbytery of *Wigtown*, Mr Robert Hunter at *Kirkcubright*, Mr Ebenezer Stot at *Minigaff*, Ministers ; and Bailie John Walker, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Wigtown*, Mr Thomas Haliday, Preacher of the Gospel : From the Burgh of *Whithorn*, Mr James Wilkie of *Rathobyer* ; From the Presbytery of *Stranraer*, Mr James Mochrie at *Colmonel*, Mr John Rose at *Leffwalt*, Ministers ; and Dr Robert Findlay of *Drummore*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Air*, Mr Patrick Woodrow at *Torbolton*, Mr William Dalrymple at *Air*, Mr Andrew Shaw at *Craigie*, Mr John Cunningham at *Mundon*, Mr William McQuhae at *St Quivox*, Ministers ; Mr William Wallace Advocate, and Mr James Stevenson-Rogers Advocate, Ruling Elders : From the Burgh of *Air*, Mr John Chalmer Writer to the Signet : From the Presbytery of *Irvine*, Mr Gilbert Lang at *Largs*, Mr David McLellan at *Beith*, Mr John Robertson at *Kilmarnock*, Ministers ; and the Honorable Patrick Boyle of *Shewalton Esq*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Paisley*, Mr John Warner at *Kilbarchan*, Mr Archibald Davidson at *Inchennan*, Mr Alexander Crookshanks at *Mearns*, Mr Alexander Kennedy at *Abbey Paisley*, Ministers ; Baron Muir, and Archibald Campbell of *Succoth*, Esq, Ruling Elders : From the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, Mr Richard Henderson at *Blantyre*, Mr David Connel at *Kilbride*, Mr Patrick Maxwell at *Newmonkland*, Ministers ; and Mr Robert Sinclair Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lanerk*, Mr William Forrester at *Carstairs*, Mr William Nimmo at *Roberton*, Mr James Scot at *Carlisle*, Ministers ; and Sir Archibald Denholme of *Westshiels*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, Mr John Hamilton Senior, Mr John Corrie at *Glasgow*, Mr William Maxwell at *Ruglen*, Ministers ; and Archibald Ingram Esq, late Provost of *Glasgow*, Ruling Elder : From the City of *Glasgow*, Provost George Murdoch : From the University of *Glasgow*, Doctor Thomas Reid : From the Burgh of *Rutherglen*, Provost Robert Spence : From the Presbytery of *Dumbar-ton*, Mr John Colquhoun at *Baldernach*, Mr David McGibbon at *Buchanan*, Mr William Brown at *Fintrie*, Ministers ; and Sir James Colquhoun of *Luss*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Denoon*, Mr John Melvil at *Denoon*, Mr Archibald M'Lea at *Rothsay*, Ministers ; and Bailie William Sands Bookseller in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Rothsay*, Professor Matthew Stewart : From the Presbytery

Presbytery of *Kintyre*, Mr David Campbell at *Southend*, Mr George Robertson at *Campbeltoun*, Ministers ; and Alexander M'Millan of *Dunmore* Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Campbeltoun*, Provost William Buchanan : From the Presbytery of *Inverara*, Mr Archibald Lambie at *Kilmartin*, Mr Hugh Campbell at *South-knapdale*, Ministers ; and Mr Robert Campbell of *Asknish* Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Lorn* Mr Joseph M'Intyre at *Glenorchie*, Mr William Campbell at *Kilchrenan*, Ministers ; and the Right Honourable Lord Stonefield, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Mull* Mr Charles Campbell at *Tyrie*, Mr Archibald M'Arthur at *Kilninian*, Ministers ; and Allan M'Dougal Esq; *Younger* of *Gallanish*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, Mr Adam Ferguson at *Moulin*, Mr James Stewart at *Dull*, Mr Patrick Simpson at *Clunie*, Mr James Smith at *Rattray*, Ministers ; and Mr James Stewart-Fleming Advocate, and Professor Ferguson, Ruling Elders : From the Presbytery of *Perth*, Mr John Glen at *Forgardenny*, Mr David Bannerman at *St Martins* Mr Andrew Gray at *Abernethy*, Mr David Beaton at *Dumbarnie*, Ministers ; Mr John Bellches of *Innermay* Advocate, and Mr John Swinton *Junior* Advocate, Ruling Elders : From the Burgh of *Perth*, William Stewart Esq; present Provost of *Perth* : From the Presbytery of *Stirling*, Mr Robert Findlay at *Dollar*, Mr John Muschet at *Stirling*, Ministers ; and Lord Barjarg, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, Mr Andrew Ramsay at *Maderty*, Mr Robert Walker at *Monzie*, Mr David Kemp at *Gask* Ministers ; and James Stewart Esq; late Provost of *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dumblane*, Mr Robert Brown at *Tulliallan*, Mr James Gourlay at *Tillicoultry*, Ministers ; and Mr Benjamin Downie of *Blurgorts*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Dunfermline*, Mr James Thomson at *Dunfermline*, Mr Andrew Richardson at *Inverkeithing*, Mr James Bathgate at *Dalgery*, Ministers ; and Sir George Preston of *Valleyfield*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Kirkcaldie*, Mr David Marshall at *Kirkcaldie*, Mr William Currie at *Kinglassie*, Mr Matthew Muchel at *Auchterderran*, Ministers ; and Mr Andrew Balfour Advocate, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Kirkcaldie*, Provost John Currie : From the Burgh of *Kinghorn*, James Balmain Esq; Collector of Excise at *Kirkcaldie* : From the Burgh of *Burntisland*, Samuel Charteris Esq; From the Presbytery of *Cupar*, Mr George Simpson at *Falkland*, Mr John Trotter at *Ceres*, Mr Roger Moodie at *Moniemail*, Mr William Walker at *Colefistie*, Ministers ; the Right Honourable the Earl of Leven, and

and Andrew Barclay of *Pittahop* Esq; Ruling Elders : From the Presbytery of *St Andrews*, Professor Andrew Schaw, Mr Joseph Pitcairn at *Carnbie*, Mr William Beat at *Kilrennie*, Mr James Gillespie at *St Andrews*, Ministers; James Durham of *Largo* Esq; and James Anderson of *Newbigging* Esq; Ruling Elders : From the Burgh of *St Andrews*, Bailie John Gardiner : From the University of *St Andrews*, Dr Alexander Carlyle : From the Burgh of *Crail*, John Balfour of *Balbirny*, Esq; From the Burgh of *Anstruther Easter*, John M'Naughton Esq; From the Burgh of *Kilrennie*, William Alexander Esq; From the Presbytery of *Meigle*, Mr Laurence Brown at *Lintrathen*, Mr David Thomson at *Airlie*, Mr James Thomson at *Kingoldrum*, Ministers; and Patrick Alison of *Newhall* Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Forfar*, Dr John Ker at *Forfar*, Mr George Ogilvie at *Cortachie*, Ministers; and the Right Honourable the Earl of *Northesk*, Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Forfar*, John Adam Esq; From the Presbytery of *Dundee*, Mr David Maxwell at *Strathmartin*, Mr James Mill at *Kinnaird*, Mr John Gibson at *Mearns*, Ministers; and William Stirling of *Pittendreich* Esq; Ruling Elder : From the Burgh of *Dundee*, Provost Patrick Maxwell : From the Presbytery of *Aberbrothock*, Mr Robert Trail at *Panbryde*, Mr Thomas Craig at *Guthrie*, Ministers; and the Honourable Baron Maule, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Brechine*, Mr David Blair at *Brechine*, Mr George Aiken at *Montrose*, Mr George Tytler at *Fern*, Ministers; and Mr Lauchlan Morison Merchant in *Montrose*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Fordoun*, Mr James Smith at *Garvock*, Mr Robert Young at *Benholm*, Mr Alexander Shank at *Ecclesgreig*, Ministers; and Mr William Galloway Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder : From the Presbtery of *Aberdeen*, Mr Patrick Duff at *Old Machar*, Mr John Maxwell at *New Machar*, Mr William Duff at *Petercoulter*, Dr Alexander Gerard, Ministers; Provost John Duncan, and Provost George Shand, Ruling Elders : From the King's College, Professor Thomas Gordon : From the Marischal College, Principal Campbell : From the Presbytery of *Kincardine Oniel*, Mr Murdoch M'Lennan at *Crathie*, Mr John Abel at *Eicht*, Mr William Morris at *Lumphanan*, Ministers; Sir Arthur Forbes of *Craigievar* Baronet, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Alford*, Mr Robert Lumsdean at *Auchindore*, Mr Algernoon Gordon at *Tullinefule*, Mr William Copland at *Forbes*, Ministers; and Mr John Duncan, Ruling Elder : From the Presbytery of *Garioch*, Mr John Lickly at *Old Meldrum*, Mr Thomas Shepherd at *Bourty*, Mr George Ogilvie at *Premny*, Ministers:

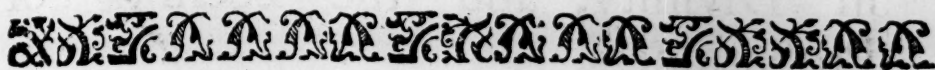
Ministers: and Mr David Dalrymple Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Laverury*, Mr John Clerk Merchant in *Edinburgh*: From the Presbytery of *Forlyce*, Mr James Dunbar at *Boyndie*, Mr Robert Ogilvie at *Orliquill*, Ministers; and Mr John Robertson Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Strathbogie*, Mr Alexander Thalmier at *Cairnie* Mr John Cooper at *Glass*, Ministers; and Mr Cosmo Gordon Advocate, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, Mr James Grant at *Inveraven*, Mr John Dunbar at *Knockando*, Ministers; and Mr Isaac Grant Writer in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Abernetly*, Mr Patrick Grant at *Cromdale*, Mr John Grant at *Abernetly*, Ministers; and Dr Gregory Grant Ruling Elder: From the Presbytery of *Elgin*, Mr James Crombie at *Longbride*, Mr Joseph Anderson at *Birnie*, Ministers; and Mr Archibald Wallace Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Elgin*, Mr David Sampson, Factor to the Earl of *Hopetoun*: From the Presbytery of *Forres*, Mr Robert Dunbar at *Dyke*, Mr James Munro at *Kinloss*, Ministers; and Professor Cummin at *Glasgow*, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Forres*, Mr James Colquhoun Advocate: From the Presbytery of *Chanonry*, Mr Robert Munro at *Kilmuir*, Mr Hector M'Phail at *Kirkmichael*, Ministers; and Professor James Robertson, Ruling Elder: From the Burgh of *Tayne*, Patrick Crawford Esq; To be Commissioners of this General Assembly, to the Effect after-mentioned; with Power to the said Commissioners, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty-one of the said Commissioners, whereof Twenty-one are always to be Ministers, to meet and convene within the Assembly-house at *Edinburgh*, the first Day after the Dissolution of this Assembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon; and thereafter, the second *Wednesday* of *August*, third *Wednesday* of *November*, and the first *Wednesday* of *March* next to come, and oftner, when and where they shall think fit and convenient, with Power to the said Commissioners to chuse their own Moderator: And likeways, the General Assembly fully impowers their said Commissioners, or their *Quorum* above-mentioned, to cognosce and finally determine, as they shall see Cause, in every Matter referred, or that shall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this Assembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Instructions given, or to be given by this Assembly; and to advert to the Interest of the Church on every Occasion, that the Church, and present Establishment thereof, do not suffer or sustain

sustain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be answerable: Providing always, that this general Clause be not extended to particular Affairs, or Processes before Synods or Presbyteries, that are not of universal Concern to, or Influence upon, the whole Church. And it is hereby appointed, that no private Processes be determined, except at the four stated Diets; and what shall be determined at one Diet of the Commission, with Relation to private Causes, shall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and shall stand and continue in Force 'till disapproved by the General Assembly. And the Assembly renews the Instructions given by the General Assembly in the Year One thousand seven hundred and seventeen, to their Commission, and appoints the same to stand in full Force, as Instructions to the Commissioners before-named, and to be observed by them in all Points, as if the same were specially here insert; and that they inquire into the publishing and spreading of Books and Pamphlets tending towards the promoting of Opinions of whatever Kind, inconsistent with our *Confession of Faith*; and that the Recommenders of such Books or Pamphlets, or the Errors therein contained, whether by Word, Writ, or Print, be called before the said Commission to answer for the same. And further, the said Commission is hereby impowered to receive any References and Appeals that shall be made to them from Synods, in Matters of Doctrine, and ripen such Affairs for the next General Assembly; and to contribute what they can to the suppressing of Vice and Immorality, and give all needful Advice and Assistance to Synods and Presbyteries, upon Application to them for that End: Likewise to take Care that the Impressions of the *Holy Scriptures* the *Confession of Faith*, and *Catechisms*, and such Books as are authorised by this Church, relating to the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline, and Government thereof, be correct; and give Directions about printing the same. And the Commissioners are appointed and impowered to keep a Correspondence with the Committee for Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*, for suppressing Popery and Superstition, and for promoting the Knowledge of true Religion, and carrying on a Reformation in these Parts, and give Assistance and Concurrence therein; and, if Need be, to apply to the Government for a proper Remedy and speedy Redress. And the said Commissioners are hereby strictly prohibited and discharged to meddle in any other Matters than what are committed and referred to them, as abovementioned: And, in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts

Acts and Constitution of this Church, and to do nothing contrary thereto, or to the Prejudice of the same; declaring, that in, and for all their Actings, they shall be accountable to, and censurable by the next General Assembly, as they shall see Cause. And the General Assembly appoints the said Commissioners particularly to observe the Acts of the General Assemblies 1712, and 1719, respecting the Application of the public Money; which two Acts are printed among the Acts of Assembly 1761. And this Commission is to continue and endure until another Commission be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the said Commission, and Absents therefrom are ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Assembly held in the Year One thousand seven hundred and six. And for the better securing of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commission, the General Assembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, or any other Presbytery within twelve Miles thereof, to meet on any of the Days or Weeks appointed for the Meeting of this Commission; and such of the Members of these Presbyteries as are on the Commission, are required all of them to give Attendance on the Diets thereof; and the Presbyteries at a greater Distance, who have four or more Members on the Commission, are to take Care, that at least two of them attend each Diet of the same; And the General Assembly appoint their Commission, at their first Meeting, to discuss as many of the Causes and Questions relative to the Settlement of vacant Churches, which are, or shall be referred to them by the Assembly, as they can overtake. And it is further provided, that when any Presbytery, or Synod of this Church shall decline to comply with the Sentence of the Commission, or to give the same a full Execution, in that Case the Commission is hereby prohibited to execute the same, by appointing any such correspondent Meeting, as has been sometimes the Practice; but shall allow the same to ly over to the ensuing Assembly, to which such Presbyteries or Synods shall be answerable for such their Conduct, and are hereby appointed to send up with their Commissioners their Reasons for the same. And the Assembly doth further empower and direct the said Commission, to make due Application to the King and Parliament, for Redress of the Grievance of Patronage, in case a favourable Opphrtunity for so doing shall occur during the Subsistence of this Commission.

And

that in passing their Sentences, and in ordering the Execution of the same, they strictly observe the 12th Act of the Assembly 1736.



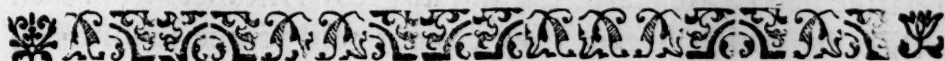
VIII.

Act appointing the Diet of the next General Assembly.

THE next General Assembly of this National Church is appointed to be held in this Place on *Thursday* the twenty-first of May, in the Year One Thousand seven hundred and sixty-eight.

Collected and extracted from the Records of the General Assembly, by

GEORGE WISHART, *Cls. Ecc. Scot.*



Former Overtures again transmitted.

UPON Report being made from the Committee for Overtures, concerning Overtures transmitted by the last and preceding Assemblies, the General Assembly agreed that all these be again transmitted; and do hereby appoint, that such Presbyteries as have not yet sent up their Opinions concerning them, do send up the same to the next General Assembly. The Overtures are these: *1mo*, Anent sending up Opinions on Overtures transmitted by the Assembly. *2do*, For repealing that Part of the Form of Processes anent Exculpation. *3tio*, Anent Members of inferior Courts judging in Causes appealed from them; and that the Report concerning them be brought into an earlier Diet of the Assembly.

Overture of an Act concerning Students in Divinity, and the licensing of Probationers.

Edinburgh, May 30th, 1767.

THERE was transmitted to the General Assembly from their Committee for Overtures, an Overture concerning Students in Divinity, and the licensing of Probationers, prepared by a Committee appointed for that Purpose by the last General Assembly ; together with another Overture respecting Students, proposed by the Committee for Overtures to be added to this : Which Overture prepared by the Committee of last Assembly, including the said additional Overture, which comes in as Article 4th, the General Assembly do hereby transmit to the several Presbyteries of this Church, to be considered by them, that they may send up their Opinions thereupon to the next General Assembly. The same is as follows :

The General Assembly, considering the dangerous Consequences to Religion of licensing any to preach the Gospel who are not duly qualified, and whereas former Acts relative hereto are scattered, and at great Distances from each other, by which Means they cannot easily come so distinctly under View, as if they were digested into one general Act, comprehending the Substance of them, together with such Alterations and Additions, as in the present State of things in this Church, relative to Students in Divinity, their Admission to Probationary Trials, and licensing them to preach, are become either necessary or highly expedient.

For these and other weighty Reasons, the General Assembly renews the former Acts relative thereto, in Form and Manner following.

Article I. None shall be admitted to pass Trials in Order to their being licensed to preach the Gospel, excepting such as are of good Report, for Piety, Gravity, Sobriety, good Affection to the Constitution in Church and State, and concerning whom there shall be Ground to hope, that they will prove able, faithful and edifying in discharging the Duties of their Station.

Article II. It is hereby more particularly enacted and ordained, that none be admitted to Trials, or licensed, unless
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in the Cases, and under the Conditions immediately hereto subjoined.

Sect. 1. Students found qualified, as is above required, may be proposed to be taken on Trials, when five compleat Years shall have passed, from and after their finishing their Course in Philosophy, provided always that it be documented, by a Certificate of the Form and Tenor by this Act appointed, that they prosecuted their theological Studies at the University, during some part of every one of the five several Sessions, between the time of compleating their Studies in Philosophy, as above required, and their being proposed in Presbyteries to be admitted to Trials. Provided also, that it shall appear, that they did publickly deliver in the Hall with Approbation, five several Exercises at least, during said Sessions, and that they attended two Sessions on the Lectures of the Professor of Church-History, and, during at least one Session, on the Professor of Hebrew.

Sect. 2. In order to encourage a more close and regular Prosecution of Publick Study, it is hereby enacted, that Students qualified as required *per* Section 1st, may, after four Years complete from the Time of finishing their Course in Philosophy, be admitted to Probationary Trials, provided it be certified in Form and Manner hereafter by this Act required, that they did prosecute at an University their theological Studies, during the greatest Part of the four intermediate Sessions, between their finishing their Course in Philosophy, and their being proposed to be put upon said Trials; and that, during the Course of said Sessions, they did deliver not fewer than five several Exercises with Approbation, and that they gave like Attendance, as by the preceeding Article is required, on the Colleges of Church History and Hebrew.

Sect. 3. The General Assembly, in Favour of those who shall distinguish themselves by prosecuting their Studies with the greatest Assiduity and Regularity, do hereby enact and ordain, that Students qualified as is above required, may be proposed to be taken on Trials on the Expiration of three Years from and after compleating their Course in Philosophy, provided always that they be certified, in manner and Form after mentioned and appointed, to have given close and punctual Attendance on the Divinity Lessons and Exercises, during the three intermediate Sessions, between the End of their Philosophical Course, and their being proposed to Trials, and to have delivered in the Hall at least six several Discourses or Exercises with Approbation, and to have attended the Lectures on Church History and the Hebrew Class, in like Manner as in the Cases of Students above described, is required.

Sect.

Secl. 4. It is hereby expressly ordained and enacted, that no Student shall, on any Consideration whatever, be licensed to preach the Gospel, till he shall appear to the Presbytery by unquestionable Evidence, to have attained to the Age of Majority or 21 Years complete; and the Presbytery is hereby enjoined to mark in their Register, the Production of such Evidence, and to specify the Nature of it, and, if it is contained in a written Certificate, to appoint their Clerk to keep the same *in retentis*.

Article III. The General Assembly earnestly recommends to the Members of this Church, and more especially to the Professors of Divinity, Church History, Hebrew, and others, under whom Students of Divinity may carry on any Branch of their Studies, and to all Ministers of the Gospel, to have a watchful Eye over such Students; and it is further recommended particularly to the Professors of Divinity, when making up the Roll of their Students yearly, to require, as a necessary Condition of being enrolled, from all new Intrants, and to keep *in retentis*, Letters recommendatory, or Certificates from the Ministers in whose Parishes such Intrants reside, or from other Persons of known and established Character for Candor and Discernment, bearing and attesting that they have completed their Course in Philosophy, and are of blameless Behaviour.

Article IV. The General Assembly further appoints, that every Person, when he is about to enter upon the Study of Divinity, and to apply to a Professor of Divinity to be enrolled by him for that Purpose, shall signify his Intention to the Presbytery in whose Bounds he resides, that he may, at the same Time, be enrolled by them in their Records, as a Student in Divinity.

Article V. It is further hereby enacted and ordained, that no Presbytery shall admit to Trials before them, any Student not actually at the Time residing, or who has not since his becoming a Student resided, for the Space of six weeks, continuedly in their Bounds, unless he be recommended by a Presbytery in whose Bounds he resideth, or hath resided, as said is, during said Space, as, in their Judgment, qualified to be admitted: And it is further hereby provided, that Students coming from Foreign Parts, shall not be entered on Trials, until six Months at least shall have elapsed from the Time of their Arrival in *Scotland*; nor even then, until they produce Certificates of their Diligence and Proficiency in their Studies, and of their good Behaviour, from the Universities where, or Professors under whom they studied, and till it shall further appear, that their Studies were so conducted

ducted and prosecuted, as to bring them on a Footing with the Students of one or other of the three several Classes described in the 2d Article of this Act, and in Sections 1st. 2d. and 3d of the same.

Article VI. When any Student is proposed to a Presbytery, in order to be taken on Trials, the Proposal shall ly on the Table till the next ordinary Meeting, before they give Judgment therein, that diligent Enquiry may be made and Information had concerning the said Student's Qualifications and Behaviour; and the Presbytery shall be alone both when the Proposal is made and judged on. And the General Assembly enjoins all Students, to take all Opportunities of cultivating an Acquaintance with the Ministers of the Presbytery where they reside, and where they are to pass Trials.

Article VII. When a Presbytery resolves to take a Student on Trials, they shall by themselves, or by a Committee appointed for that Purpose, take a private Trial of his Progress in the learned Languages, in Philosophy, especially in moral Philosophy, and in Divinity, and particularly they shall take Trial of his Acquaintance with the Holy Scriptures, and what Impression of Religion he hath on his own Soul; and being satisfied in these Respects, the Committee of Examinators shall require him to read aloud in their Presence, or (when the Presbytery themselves take the said private Trial) their Clerk shall read in open Court, and in hearing of the Candidate, the Engagements to be entered into, by Act 10. Assembly 1711, and the *Formula* appointed (by Assembly 1714 Act 6th of the same) to be signed by such as are licensed to preach, immediately before licensing them; and Presbyteries are strictly charged to conduct those Trials impartially as in the Sight of God, and Our Lord Jesus Christ, the alone King and Head of his Church, and either reject, or delay to further Trial, such as shall not be found sufficiently qualified.

Article VIII. The same steps are hereby ordained to be taken in all Respects, before any Presbytery shall recommend a Student to be taken on Trials by another.

Article X. It is likewise enacted, that Presbyteries, after sustaining the above private Trial, and resolving to admit the Candidate to publick Trials, shall two Months (at least) before the then ensuing Meeting of Synod, direct circular Letters to be wrote, and sent away to each Presbytery within the Bounds, informing them of their intention, that the Members of the Synod, may be ripely advised thereanent,
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and it is likewise ordained, that Intimation of the same shall be publickly made at the 2d. Diet of Synod, to lie on the Table till another Diet; or, in Case of no third Diet, till the End of said second one, and then particular Enquiry shall be made, Whether there is any Objection against entering the said Student on Trials? And in Case any relevant one shall be moved, the Presbytery proposing the Candidate, shall stop Procedure, till the same be discussed or brought to an Issue.

Article X. The General Assembly appoints the publick probationary Trials of Students, who are to be licensed Probationers to be these following, *viz.* 1^{mo}, The Catechetick Trials to be renewed in Presence of the Presbytery, and that previously to all the other Parts of publick Trials. 2^{do}, A Homily in *English* on a Scripture Text. 3^{io}, An Exegetis in *Latin*, on a controverted Head of Divinity, and sustaining a Thesis or Dispute thereon. 4^{to}, An Exercise and Addition. 5^{to}, A Lecture on a large Portion of Scripture. 6^{to}, A popular Sermon on a particular Text of Scripture. Lastly, To interpret the *Greek* of the New Testament *ad aperturam libri*, and not only to translate and analyse any Portion of the *Hebrew* Bible prescribed by the Presbytery, but also to read the *Hebrew* Text *ad aperturam libri*. And it is hereby further enacted, that the foresaid publick Trials shall not be taken and concluded in fewer than three several Meetings of Presbytery, nor shall the Interval between the first and last of these Meetings be, in any Case, shorter than six Weeks.

Article XI. When any Presbytery, who, with the Synod's Allowance, has entered, or who is about to enter a Student on Trials, shall receive a Letter from any Presbytery, shewing their Dissatisfaction with the Student entered, or to be entered on Trials, and giving relevant Grounds for the same, which they offer to the Presbytery at their next Meeting, the said Student shall not be licensed until the Matter be tried. And the General Assembly appoints Presbyteries, who shall receive such Letters anent Students, from any other Presbytery, to write a Return with the first Post after their Meeting, acquainting them of their next Diet.

Article XII. The General Assembly considering, that some Persons who, upon Application to the Judicatories of this Church, have not been admitted on Trials, or have not been found fit and worthy to be licensed to preach, do yet retire out of the Bounds of this Church, where they are not so well known, in order to enter upon Trials, and, after they have

have been licensed, do not recommend themselves by a holy Life and ministerial Conversation, to the Reproach of the Church of *Scotland* where they were educated: Therefore the General Assembly do hereby inhibit and discharge all young Men, educated in this Church, or Students of Divinity, to go to foreign Places, and offer themselves to Trials for Licence to preach the Gospel, without Testimonials and Recommendations from their Presbytery, as above directed. And further order and appoint, That no Student whatsoever, coming from abroad, shall be allowed to preach within this Church, as one of our Probationers, until it appear documented, that they have followed the Study of Divinity for six Years, after their finishing their Course of Philosophy, and until they undergo a-new their catechetick Trials, and come under the Engagements, and sign the *Formula* appointed by Act 10. Assembly 1711, and it appear by their Licence, that the said Probationers have been licensed by a regular constitute Presbytery, or Classcal Meeting.

XIII. For the better securing the Attainment of the Purposes of this Act, and to prevent the eluding thereof, the General Assembly does hereby enact and ordain, that no young man, educated in this Church, shall go without the Bounds thereof, and offer himself to Trials, unless he carry with him such Certificates, as are by this Act appointed to be produced, to Presbyteries within the Church, previously to their admitting any to Trials, at the Desire and on the Recommendation of another Presbytery. And it is hereby further enacted, that no Person licensed without the Bounds of this Church, shall be held or considered, as one of her Probationers, nor shall be entitled to, or capable of enjoying any of the Privileges belonging to that Character, till he shall undergo a-new his catechetick Trials, and until it shall be documented, that he did follow the Study of Divinity, so as to fall under one or other of the three Classes of Students above described in Paragraph or Sect. 2. Article 1. 2. and 3. and until he come under the Engagements, and sign the *Formula* appointed by Act of the General Assembly 1714; and till it shall likewise appear, that he was licensed to preach by a regular constitute Presbytery or Classcal Meeting. Provided always, that the Space of Time intervening between the Admission of such Students to Trial, before Presbyteries or Classcal Meetings, not within the Church of Scotland, and their being actually licensed, shall not have been less than six weeks.

Proposals

PROPOSALS annexed to the above Overture.

1mo, That a Form of a Licence adapted to the Frame and chief Clauses of this Act, be drawn up, and be strictly enacted to be observed, as the only valid Form in the Power of Presbyteries to grant, and that no one presume to officiate in the Character of a Preacher, till he shall either have extracted his Licence drawn up in Manner and Form hereby required, and shall have the same ready to produce and exhibit to all concerned ; or until he shall obtain, and be in Possession of an Attestation by the Presbytery, that the Materials out of which such a Licence can be framed, are actually engrossed and contained in their Minutes.

2do, That Certificates be drawn up in such Manner and Form, as shall suit the Requisites of this Act, be printed, leaving blank Spaces to be filled up with the Dates and other Particulars, that can only be inserted by the Granter of the Certificates.

3tio, That an Edition of this Act be printed, and Copies thereof given to Students of Divinity already enrolled, and prosecuting their Studies, and to Intrants on said Study in Time coming.

4to, That when Presbyteries suspend Preachers, or deprive them of their Licences, Notice should be given of such Sentences, either in the public News-papers, or by circular Letters to the Presbyteries, at least of the Synod of the Bounds, if not to the whole Church ; and in like Manner notice be given, when such as have been suspended or deprived of their Licences, are restored to their Character of Preachers.

A TABLE

Table of the printed Acts of the General Assembly held in the Year 1767.

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- III. *The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.* 6
- IV. *Recommendation anent the Orphan Children of Soldiers.* 8
- V. *Act supplying certain Defects in the Forms of Commissions and Attestations thereof.*
- VI. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for Reformation of the Highlands and Islands, and for managing His Majesty's Royal Bounty for that End.* 12
- VII. *Commission to some Ministers and Ruling Elders for discussing Affairs referred to them.* 16
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- Overture anent Students, and the licensing of Probationers.* 26

Table of the printed Acts of the General Assembly held in the Year 1767.

W. E. King, Esq. Secretary to the Assembly.
Printed and sold by W. E. King, at the Sign of the Crown, in the City of Edinburgh.

The Acts of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in the Year 1767, are printed and sold by W. E. King, at the Sign of the Crown, in the City of Edinburgh.

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Index or Abridgement

O F T H E

Actings and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Church of *Scotland*, held in the Year 1767, which are not printed at full Length.

May 21. 1767, Sess. 1.

A F T E R Sermon by the Reverend Mr John Hamilton, one of the Ministers of the City of *Glasgow*, Moderator of the last General Assembly, the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of the Assembly, did convene in the Assembly-House, and the Reverend Mr James Murison, Principal of the New College of *St Andrews*, being chosen Moderator. he, at the Assembly's desire, took the Chair.

The King's Commission to John Earl of *Glasgow* to represent His Majesty's Royal Person in this Assembly. read and recorded.

The King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly read, and recorded.

The Commissioner's Speech at opening this Assembly ; and the Moderator's Speech in Return thereto.

His Majesty's Royal Warrant for *L- 1000 Sterling* delivered in to the Assembly by his Grace the Commissioner, read, and ordered to be recorded.

A Committee named for answering the King's most gracious Letter.

A Committee named for revising the Commission to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents from the Diets thereof ; naming Ministers to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner ; receiving in Lists of Probationers in the several Presbyteries, in Order to their being recorded.

Committee for Overtures named.

Committee for Bills, References, and Appeals named.

May 22. 1767, Sess. 2.

A Diet spent in Prayer.

The Act 7th of the Assembly 1718, for the better Dispatch of the Business of the Assembly, read, and the Observation thereof enjoined.

Ministers named to preach before his Grace the King's Commissioner.

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May 23. 1767, Sess. 3.

New Commissions produced.

A Committee named to revise the Synod Books of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*.

The Synod Books of *Glenelg*, *Sutherland* and *Caithness*, *Orkney*, *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, *Dumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glasgow* and *Air*, *Argyle*, *Perth* and *Stirling*, *Fife*, *Angus* and *Mearns*, *Aberdeen*, *Moray* and *Ross*, and the Presbytery Book of *Zetland*, not being brought up to this Assembly. Resolved, that the Reasons thereof be inquired into.

The Report of the Committee for revising Commissions having passed the Committee for Overtures, was called for and read : The General Assembly having heard the said Report, rejected the Commission from the Presbytery of *Kintyre* as to Mr Alexander Hosack Minister at *Jura*, &c. only, the Minute of his Election being informal,

A Committee named to consider some Defects that still remain in the Forms of Commissions and Attestations, and appointed to report to this Assembly.

The Draught of an Answer to the King's most gracious Letter to this Assembly brought in and approved ; and his Grace the Commissioner, at the Assembly's Request, undertakes to transmit the same to his Majesty.

A Letter from the Presbytery of *Fordyce*, respecting the Fund for a new Erection in the *Enzie*, and desiring a Committee might be appointed to inquire into the State of that Fund, and to report to the General Assembly, read, and a Committee appointed accordingly.

A Petition and Complaint at the Instance of Mr David Blair, Minister at *Brechin*, Mr Thomas Randall Minister at *Inchture*, Mr James Playfair Minister at *Liff*, and Bailie Lauchlan Morison Merchant in Montrose, Ruling Elder, against a Sentence of the Synod of *Angus* and *Mearns* allowing the Presbytery of *Fordoun* to proceed to take Mr John Honyman, Student in Divinity, upon Trials, heard ; the General Assembly, after Reasoning on the Affair, and considering the whole Circumstances of the Case, allowed the Presbytery of *Fordoun* to proceed to take Mr Honyman upon Trials.

Resolve anent Causes.

May 25. 1767, Sess. 4.

New Commissions produced.

Resolve anent Causes.

The Synod Book of *Aberdeen* produced, and a Committee named to revise the same.

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A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Commission of the late General Assembly, audite the Procurator and Agent's Accompts, consider the State of the Public Money, and prepare Overtures about the same.

A Committee named to revise the Register of the Actings and Proceedings of the Committee named by last Assembly for managing the Royal Bounty for the Reformation of the *Highlands* and *Islands*.

An Appeal of his Grace George-James Duke of *Hamilton* and *Brandon*, and his Tutors, Patron of the Parish of *Shotts*, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, delaying to proceed to the Settlement of Mr Laurence Wells, his Grace's Presentee to the said Parish, and from a Sentence of the Synod of *Glasgow* and *Air*, declining to judge in the Affair upon an Appeal taken from the Sentence of the Presbytery, heard; the General Assembly appointed the Minister of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, whose Turn it should be to supply the Vacancy at *Shotts* upon the third Lord's day of June next, to serve Mr Wells's Edict on that Day, and the Minister, to whose Turn the Ordination or Admission of a Minister falls, according to the usual Practice of that Presbytery, to preach and preside at his Ordination, upon the first Thursday of July next, being the Day fixed by the Assembly for that Purpose, and all the Members of that Presbytery are appointed to attend at the said Ordination, and if any shall be absent, they are appointed to send their several Excuses to the Presbytery, and the Presbytery are ordered to report their Obedience to the above Appointments, to the Commission, to be named by this Assembly at their Meeting in August next, and in Case there be not a *Quorum* at that Diet, to the Commission in November; which failing, to the next General Assembly. And the General Assembly further appointed Mr John Risk, the Clerk of that Presbytery, to produce to the Assembly, at their Meeting on Friday next, the Minutes of Presbytery so far back as to ascertain, whose turn it is to supply the Vacancy at *Shotts* on the third Sabbath of June next, and on whom it will fall as above to preside at, the Ordination. And the Assembly's Displeasure was signified to the Presbytery, by the Moderator from the Chair, for their past Conduct.

May 26. 1767, Sess. 5.

An Appeal of the Right Honourable the Earl of Eglinton, Patron of the Parish of *Eaglesham*, from a Sentence of
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the Presbytery of *Glasgow*, delaying to proceed to the Settlement of Mr Thomas Clark, Preacher of the Gospel, as Minister of that Parish; heard, and the General Assembly finding that Mr Clark's Edict had been already duly served and returned, and that nothing remained but that he should be ordained, they appointed the Presbytery of *Glasgow* to meet at the Kirk of *Eaglesham*, upon the last Thursday of June next, at eleven o'Clock Forenoon, and then to ordain and admit the said Mr Thomas Clark as Minister of the Kirk and Parish of *Eaglesham*. And the Assembly, having sustained a Meeting of the Presbytery, upon the 14th of April last to have been a legal Meeting, continued the Appointment of that Presbytery upon Mr Ballantyne Minister at *Glasgow* to preach and preside at the Ordination; but if he should be unavoidably detained by Want of Health, then, and in that Case, the General Assembly appointed Dr Robert Trail, Professor of Divinity in the University of *Glasgow*, to perform that Office, the Assembly having been informed that it fell next to that Gentleman's share, in Course, according to the Order commonly observed by the Presbytery in these Cases, and ordered the whole Members of the Presbytery to attend at the Ordination; and if any be absent, they are appointed to send their Excuses to the Presbytery, and the Presbytery ordered to report concerning their Obedience to the above Appointment, to the Commission to be named by this Assembly, at their Meeting in August next, and in Case there be not a *Quorum* at that Diet, to the Commission in November; and failing of a *Quorum* of the Commission then, to the next General Assembly. And the Moderator signified to the Presbytery from the Chair, the Assembly's Disapprobation of their Conduct; and they were ordered to expunge the Minutes of the *pro re nata* Presbytery, from their Record.

May 27. 1767, Sess. 6.

The Report of the Committee, appointed to consider the *Erzie-fund*, being called for, the same was given in and read. The General Assembly having considered the said Report, they of new appointed the different Presbyteries who had not made the Collection, to do it forthwith, and to transmit the monies collected by them to Mr John Davidson Writerto the Signet, and report their Diligence to the next General Assembly; and a Committee is named, and empowered to correspond with the Presbytery of *Fordice*, a-nent the proper Application of the foresaid Fund, and to prepare

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prepare a Memorial, setting furth the Necessity and Expediency of the said Collection : Which Memorial the Clerk is appointed to cause print, and transmit to the several Presbyteries who have not made the said Collection. The Cause of Mr George Scot, Schoolmaster at *Edinkelly*, remitted to the Commission.

Resolve anent taking in Causes.

An Appeal of Sir John Stewart of *Allanbank*, Patron of the Parish of *St Ninians*, and others, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Stirling*, referring the Cause anent a Presentation granted by the said Sir John Stewart to Mr David Thomson, Minister of the Gospel at *Gargunnoch*, to be Minister of the Parish of *St Ninians*, to the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling*, and from a Sentence of the Synod, referring the Cause to the General Assembly, heard. The General Assembly sustained the Presentation in Favours of Mr Thomson, and appointed the Presbytery of *Stirling* to proceed in this Affair with all convenient Speed, according to the Rules of the Church.

May 28. 1767, *Seff.* 7.

The Members from the several Synods appointed to meet among themselves, in Order to bring in a List of the Nominators of the Commission, according to the 6th Act of Assembly 1705.

An Appeal of the Principal and Masters of the New-College of *St Andrews* from two Sentences of the Presbytery of *Forfar*, whereby they rejected the Presentation given by the Appellants to Mr John Buick Preacher of the Gospel, in Regard the Appellants had not produced their Rights to the Patronage ; and finding the Right of presenting had devolved on the Presbytery, and the other finding (after the Rights were offered to the Presbytery) that their former Sentence was final, and refusing to take in the Rights : And likewise from a Sentence of the Synod referring the Cause *simpliciter* to the General Assembly, heard, and the Sentences of the Presbytery of *Forfar* complained of reverted, and the Presbytery appointed to receive in and consider the Titles of the New-College of *St Andrews* to the Right of Patronage ; and in case the New-College be found to be Patrons, to appoint a Moderation of a Call to the Presentee alone, and to proceed to take the proper Steps towards his Settlement according to the Rules of the Church, with all convenient Speed. And the Commission to be named by this Assembly is impowered to judge and finally determine in
any

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question that may be regularly brought before them, relative to said Settlement.

May 29. 1767, Sess. 8.

The Agent's Accompt produced, and ordered to ly on the Table till another Diet.

The Report of the Committee for Overtures being called for, the same was given in and read, bearing, that a considerable Number of Presbyteries have made no Return as to any of the Overtures transmitted by the last and preceeding Assemblies; and of those who have, there is not a Majority of the Presbyteries of *Scotland*, who have agreed to any of them *simpliciter*. The Committee overtured to the General Assembly, that they be again transmitted to such Presbyteries as have made no Returns, requiring them to send up their Opinions of the said Overtures to the next General Assembly; which Report being considered by the Assembly they agreed thereto.

The General Assembly called for the Minutes of the Presbytery of *Hamilton*, in Terms of their Appointment of the 25th instant, and the same having been produced by Mr Risk the Presbytery-Clerk, they find, that, according to the Practice of that Presbytery, it fell to Mr Robert Park Minister at *Old Monkland* to supply the Vacancy of the Kirk of *Shotts* upon the third Sabbath of June next, and that it fell to Mr Michael M'Culloch Minister at *Bothwell*, to preside at the Ordination of the first Minister to be settled in that Presbytery: Therefore Mr Park is appointed to serve Mr Wells's Edict, and Mr M'Culloch to preach and preside at his Ordination and Admission.

A Committee named to consider a Petition of Mrs Nisbet's Spouse to Mr William Nisbet, late Minister of *Firth and Stemes*.

The Reference from the Synod of *Perth* and *Stirling* anent the Settlement of the Parish of *Denny*, delayed *simpliciter*.

The Cause anent the Settlement of *Glendovan* called, but dismissed at this Diet, on Account of an Informality in the Manner of bringing it in.

The Petitions of Mr Robert Carson Minister at *Anwoth*, and John M'Lellan in *Pulcree*, and others, were moved, but the Lawyers, not expecting this Cause to be taken up at this Diet, craved a Delay till to-morrow, in Regard they were not prepared to plead the Cause, which the Assembly agreed to.

The Report of the Trustees for the Widows Fund was given in, and ordered to ly upon the Table till another Diet.

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A Petition for Mr George Trail Minister of the Gospel at *Dunnet*, craving a Renewal of the Act and Commission, and a Prorogation of the Term for proving in the Process at his Instance against Mr Thomas Lyel, Minister of the Gospel at *Lady Parish* in the Island of *Sanday*, being read; the Desire thereof was granted, and the Proof to be taken for either Party in this Cause, is ordained to be lodged in the Hands of the Clerks of Assembly against the 1st of April next.

May 30. 1767, Sess. 9.

Mr M'Culloch Minister at Bothwell, who is appointed to preach, and preside at the Ordination and Admission of Mr Laurence Wells, having represented his Want of Health, is allowed to find one to officiate for him, in case his Health shall not permit him to officiate himself.

Act approving the Accompt of James Edmonstone, Agent for the Church, and Sub-Clerk to the General Assembly; and appointing that he have Credit in his next Accompt for the Sum of L. 27: 8: 10½ Sterling, being the Balance due to him.

Act approving of the Accompt of William Miller Bookseller, for Stationary Ware furnished for the Use of the Church, and ordering Payment of L. 8: 17: 8 Sterling, being the Balance due to him.

The Report of the Visitors of the Commission-Book given in and read, and the Commission's Conduct approved of. The Assembly's thanks given from the Chair to the Moderator of the Commission, for their Faithfulness and Diligence in the Affairs committed to them, and their Book ordered to be attested.

The Report of the Committee named to consider the Applications for Shares of the public Money, given in and read. The Assembly appointed as follows,

The Sum of L. 10 Sterling agreed to be given to Mr James Bishop Minister at *Kinclivan*, to defray the Expence of defending the Process of Reduction intended to be brought against him, by Mr Mercer of *Adie*, of a Decreet of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld* in his Favours; in Case the said process of Reduction be insisted in, and his Expence should amount to so much.

The Sum of L. 20 Sterling agreed to be given to Mr George Nicol Minister at *Kinnettles*, to help him to defray the Expence of a Process of Augmentation brought by him, of his Stipend, presently depending before the
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Court of Session, which Process has been litigated with uncommon Keeness.

The Sum of L. 20 Sterling agreed to be paid to Mr Alexander Hosack Minister of *Jura* and *Colonsay*, to enable him to carry on a Process of Augmentation, and for a Church, Manse, and Glebe; there being none in that Parish, and the Minister obliged to preach in the open Air.

The Sum of L. 20 agreed to be paid to Mr John Dunbar, Minister at *Knockando*, to enable him to carry on his Process of Augmentation, he having attempted every Method hitherto, in vain, for obtaining a reasonable and amicable Accomodation.

The Sum of L. 5 : 5 Ster. agreed to be given to Mr Daniel Brodie Minister at Calder, Clerk to the Presbytery of *Inverness*, on Account of the extraordinary Trouble and Expence he was put to as Clerk to the Process against Mr Nisbet. And

The Sum of L. 10 Sterling to Mr William Campbell Minister at *Kilchrenan*, to enable him to discuss a Suspension brought by Mr Campbell of *Ballimore*, of a Decreet of the Presbytery of *Lorn*, in Favours of Mr Campbell, designing him a Glebe.

The saids Persons to be placed as Creditors upon the public Fund for the particular Sums above-mentioned, to become due to them, after the Debts that are already contracted shall be cleared, excepting Mr Daniel Brodie, who is to be paid the said Sum of five Pounds five Shillings immediately.

The Report of the Visitors of the Royal Bounry-Register, given in and read. The Conduct of the Managers approved of, and the Book ordered to be attested.

A Committee named for managing the Royal Bounty this Year, with the Commission and Instructions to them.

Upon a Transmission from the Committee for Overtures, the General Assembly appointed an Overture anent Students in Divinity, and the licensing of Probationers, to be printed and transmitted to the several Presbyteries in Scotland, and appointed them to send up their Opinions thereon to the next General Assembly.

A Committee named to prepare an Overture anent the Method of settling Parishes, in Case of the Right falling into the Hands of Presbyteries, and to lay the same before the Commission of this Assembly in November next, to be by them ripened for the next General Assembly.

The Cause anent the Settlement of *Glendovan*, being this day called, the General Assembly remitted the same *simpliciter*

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pliciter to the Presbytery of *Auchterarder*, that they may proceed therein with all convenient Speed, according to the Rules of the Church, and impowered their Commission to take in and judge of, and finally determine in any Questions relative to this Settlement, that may be regularly brought before them, allowing any Appeal or Reference to be brought directly from the Presbytery to the Commission, in Case there be no intermediate Meeting of the Synod.

The Cause between Mr Robert Carson Minister at *Anwirth*, and John M'Lellan in *Pulcree*, and others, was this Day heard. The General Assembly sustained the Libel against Mr Carson as to the alledged Forgery of the Letters, being the first part of the seventh Article of the Libel, and the Calumny against Mr Brown, being Part of the third Article of the Libel, and dismissed all the rest of the Articles of the Libel, the same being irrelevant as laid. Allowed the Prosecutors to adduce new Witnesses on the Article of Forgery only, and dismissed the Appeal of the Prosecutors.

Resolve anent Causes.

1st of June 1767, Sess. Ult.

The Synod-Book of *Aberdeen* attested.

The Synod-Book of *Merse* and *Teviotdale*; the Visitors having not revised the same, to give in their Report to the Commission.

The Report of the Committee for naming the Members of the Commission, and drawing up Instructions to them, brought in and approved.

All Causes brought before this Assembly, and not determined by them, referred to the Commission.

The Report of the Trustees for managing the Fund for a Provision to Ministers Widows, &c. containing a State of the Fund, and their Management, and an Accompt of their Proceedings since last Assembly, being called for, was read, and ordered to be recorded in the separate Register kept for that Purpose.

Upon the Report of the Committee appointed to consider the Petition of Mrs Nisbet, Spouse to the late Minister of *Firth* and *Stennes*, the General Assembly, considering the distressful and calamitous Circumstances to which she is reduced, appointed a Collection to be made for her in the Synods of *Orkney* and *Sutherland*, and *Caithness*, and the same Committee to consider what may be done in any other Way, towards her obtaining some Provision for her future Support.

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- A Petition for Mr John M'Aulay Minister at *Bara*, craving a Viaticum, being read, the General Assembly refused the Desire thereof.
- A Reference from the Synod of *Lothian* and *Tweeddale*, anent Dr David Dickson, read, the General Assembly remitted the same, with the whole Papers, back to the Synod, *simpliciter*.
- An Appeal of Mr. Alexander Cunninghame Minister at *Symington*, from a Sentence of the Presbytery of *Air*, allowing a Witness who had been objected to on Account of a *miss nomen*, heard, and the Witness allowed to be recited and examined.
- The Thanks of the House was given to the Committee on the Window-Tax, for their Care and Diligence in this Matter, and the Powers formerly given to them renewed, and the Moderator of this Assembly, and Mr Lawson Minister at *Kirkmahoe* were added to the Committee.
- The Powers given to the Committee appointed in the 1765 to correspond with the Trustees on the Forfeited Estates, anent the new Erections in the *Highlands*, renewed.
- List of Probationers produced, and ordered to be recorded.
Protestations admitted.
- A Committee named to revise the Minutes of the Assembly's Proceedings at this and all other Diets thereof, and to pitch upon such of the Acts of the Assembly as are to be standing Rules, in Order to their being printed.
- The Moderator's Speech to the Assembly, and His Majesty's Commissioner.
- The Lord Commissioner's Speech to the Assembly.
- Act appointing next Meeting of Assembly.
- The Assembly concluded with Prayer and singing of Psalms.*

F I N I S.

